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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

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CONVENTION



FRIEDA CROSSLEY and MYRLE BURK
DUBUQUE WATERLOO

The Waterloo Audubon Society was host to the 50th Annual Convention, Golden Anniversary, of the I. O. U., held at the Museum of History and Science. The Friday night program for the early arrivals was *Birding in Trinidad and Tobago* by Peter C. Petersen. It consisted of slides taken on a trip to Trinidad and Tobago in June, 1971. Mr. and Mrs. Petersen saw over two hundred species and netted nearly one quarter of these which were then photographed. The birds shown ranged from the beautiful Scarlet Ibis to Oilbirds with eggs, and young, seven hummingbirds, colorful tanagers and honeycreepers. The evening concluded with a reception hosted by the Waterloo Audubon Society and the opportunity to view the Museum of History and Science exhibits.

The Saturday morning program started at 10:00 with a welcome by John Osness, President of the I. O. U. Jim Rod took charge of the program and introduced the first speaker. Robert Bartels of Iowa State University, Ames, gave a slide presentation, *Animal Resources of the Arctic Slope*. He described the physical features of the area: lake country, plains, mountains, and off shore islands, which will be effected by the Alaska pipeline. He told of the abundance and variety of nesting waterfowl and other bird species and the animals that range over the area. He explained how the lemming is the key to the eco-system of the Arctic. He stated that 60 oil wells are drilled, capped and ready to go. There were pictures of oil fields that were examples of showing concern and of not caring at all for the environment. There were examples, also, of both well-built and carelessly laid roads. As elsewhere, the litter problem follows.

Judge Charles and Darlene Ayres, next on the program, gave a pictorial report on *Birding and Banding in Southeast Iowa*. By providing a fine catering service at their home for their feathered friends, they are hosts to a variety of species which welcome this service. They reported the privilege of banding 260 birds in 10 hours one day, 1100 goldfinches during the season, and a number of less common species.

After lunch Jim Rod showed his film on *Platte River Valley Sandhill Cranes* taken in March, 1971. During migration thousands of cranes are easily seen along the river between Grand Island and Lexington, Nebraska, south of the Interstate Highway. To photograph them it is necessary to arrive at the feeding areas before the cranes fly in. Jim described their extreme wariness, their unforgettable bugling, and showed the dancer like movements and beauty of flight on film.

Peter C. Petersen, chairman of the planning committee for the projected Iowa Foray, reviewed the work of the committee to date. The year 1973 would be the earliest that a foray could be held in Iowa. There are seven areas in our state where complete natural history studies should be made. There will be more information later concerning this project being planned under the authority of the Iowa Academy of Science, Conservation Section.

The afternoon program closed with a report by Jim Rod on TV tower mortality. He described the birds he found at a tower at Alleman north of Des Moines when he went there once in April and twice in May. On May 12th he found 46 species and 228 individuals. Jim suggests that members living near towers make a check during migration. It is important to note the height of the tower, weather conditions, number of birds killed, their age, sex ratio, and whether the kill was due to the tower or the guy wires.

The business meeting, called to order by the President, John Osness, convened at 3:00 P.M. Due to illness Miss Pearle Walker, Secretary, was not present. Myrle M. Burk was appointed by John Osness to serve as secretary pro tem. The minutes of the meeting held May 8 and 8, 1971, were read by the secretary and approved as read.

Woodward Brown, treasurer, gave the following report:

I. O. U. Financial Statement 19 May, 1972

INCOME:

Memberships	\$1612.00
Subscription IBL	188.00
Sales: Brassards	3.00
Decals	4.50
Checklists	44.15
Annotated Lists	118.00
Interest, Home Federal S&L	78.98
Misc. Income	18.25
Sale of Books	463.05
Fall meeting, 1971	38.42
Total	\$2568.35

DISBURSEMENTS:

Spring meeting, 1971	\$ 172.89
Printing	35.80
Iowa Bird Life	1579.98
Postage	40.26
Misc. Expense	79.68
Editorial Expense	100.00
Total	\$2008.61
Excess Income over Disbursements	559.74
Assets, 7 May, 1971	2257.29
Assets, 19 May, 1972	\$2817.03
Composed of:	
Checking acct. Bankers Tr. Co. Des Moines	\$1054.66
Deposit, Home Federal S & L, Des Moines	1762.37
	\$2,817.03

Respectfully submitted, Woodward H. Brown, Treasurer.

I. O. U. Membership Statement 19 May, 1972

Payments on Life Memberships	\$ 50.00
Contributing 13 at \$10	130.00
Sustaining 98 at \$5	490.00
Regular 232 at \$4	928.00
Junior 8	8.00
Payment on arrears	6.00
	\$1612.00

Losses by death	3	
Resignations	5	
Delinquents	34	42
New members		35
Net loss		7
Financial report approved.		

President Osness stated that in view of the increasingly high cost of conventions, the Waterloo Audubon Society, host, has taken care to economize so that the costs will not exceed the income.

Peter C. Petersen, Editor, reported that the question has arisen whether the Iowa Ornithologists' Union qualifies legally as a non-profit organization. In order to meet the requirements, the Articles of Incorporation should be amended as follows: CHANGES IN THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION. Enacted May 20, 1972, at Waterloo, Iowa.

ARTICLE 1. NAME: The name of this non-profit corporation shall be The Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

ARTICLE 3. PERIOD OF EXISTENCE. The period of existence and duration of the life of this corporation shall be fifty (50) years unless sooner dissolved by a three-fourths vote of all of the members or by act of the General Assembly or by operation of law. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the officers shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purposes of the corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the officers shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

ARTICLE 4. OBJECTS: The objects of this corporation shall be to encourage interest in and the study and protection of birds and to more closely unite all those persons who have this interest in common. Said Corporation is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law)

ARTICLE 9. CORPORATE POWERS. The corporation shall have all the powers, rights, privileges and immunities provided by law. It may acquire real or personal property for such purposes appropriate to its creation. It may acquire said real or personal property by gift, purchase, devise or bequest. It may sell and dispose of any property acquired as may be determined by the Executive Council.

The title to all property acquired shall be taken in the name of the corporation. The transfer of property shall be by the President, attested by the Secretary and under the authority and approval of the Executive Council. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall insure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherances of the purposes set

forth in Article Third hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting, to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by the corporation exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

Moved by Peter C. Petersen, Jr. that the Articles of Incorporation be thus amended. Seconded by George Crossley. Motion carried.

The president appointed two committees: Nominating, George Crossley, Chairman, Mrs. Dwight Brooke and Mrs. W. C. DeLong. Resolutions, Mrs. Evelyn Hanna, Chairman and Clarice Hewitt.

The places of meeting for the coming fall and the spring of 1973 were discussed. The standing invitation from the Izaak Walton League, Vinton, was considered favorably. Tentative invitation from the Des Moines Audubon society will be confirmed later for spring, 1973.

Peter C. Petersen presented the following two resolutions to be included in the resolutions of this meeting:

1. The Iowa Ornithologists' Union favors stiffening the penalty for shotting birds of prey in Iowa and making the offense grounds for the loss of a hunting license for three years.

2. The Iowa Ornithologists' Union favors the change of Section 109.7 of the Code of Iowa to permit trapping of wild birds and animals on game refuges for banding purposes.

Moved by Peter C. Petersen Jr. that the above two resolutions be incorporated in the resolutions of the current meeting. Seconded by Woodward Brown. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Beryl Layton. Seconded by Woodward Brown. Adjournment.

The annual banquet was served at 5:30 p.m. by members of the Kimball Avenue Methodist Church. It was noted that Walter Rosene Jr. was the only person present who was in attendance at the first meeting in 1923. Mr. Frederick Leopold of Burlington, Iowa was the guest speaker. His program on the **Nesting Habits of the Wood Duck** was illustrated with slides taken at his home on a Mississippi River bluff. He presented an informative and scholarly life history of the duck, taken from the records of his many years of observations and experiences. Thousands of Wood Ducks have been born in his boxes. Plans for boxes were made available to those interested.

The final part of the business meeting was called to order by the President, John Osness, at 1:00 p.m. May 21, 1972.

The president reported that the meeting places for the fall and spring meeting are still indefinite, but tentative plans are to meet at Vinton and Des Moines, respectively.

Mrs. Liljedahl reported that the Cattle Egret had been seen a week previous in the vicinity between Marion and Alburnett.

Charles Ayres requested that members send cards to Pearle Walker. She

suffered a stroke a year ago; now walks with the aid of braces and cane. Recently she had a heart attack. She sent her remembrances to members of the I. O. U.

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee, Evelyn Hanna, read the following:

Be it resolved by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union, meeting in Waterloo, Iowa, May 19-21, that we give our thanks to the Waterloo Audubon Society members in hosting the Golden Anniversary meeting of this organization.

Be it further resolved that our thanks be given:

1. To our President, John Osness, and to our capable officer and the Executive Council who have given so generously and willingly of their time and talents.
2. To our Vice-president, James Rod, who made arrangements for an interesting and varied program.
3. To the program participants, commencing with Friday evening through the compilation meeting Sunday afternoon.
4. To the members of the Kimball Avenue Methodist Church for serving the Saturday evening dinner.
5. To the Y. M. C. A. and to the Museum of History and Science for the use of their facilities. A special thanks to Mrs. Genevieve Woodbridge, Director.
6. To the Sunday morning field trip leaders.
7. To our Librarian, Mrs. Beryl Layton, for sifting through the library materials and making duplicate copies available to the membership.
8. To Ida Mae Wade for opening her property for the Sunday morning field trip.
9. To Peter C. Petersen for his continued loyalty in editing our very fine publication -- **Iowa Bird Life**.
10. To the president of the Waterloo Audubon Society, Antoinette Camarata and the ladies who served the Sunday morning breakfast and preparing the goodies for the coffee breaks and who created the very appropriate decorations for the banquet tables featuring our state flower the Wild Rose and our state bird the American Goldfinch artistically arranged on the country fences.

Respectfully submitted:

Mrs. Darrell M. Hanna, Chr.

Mrs. Lloyd E. Hewitt

Moved by Evelyn Hanna that resolutions be accepted; seconded by Dick Mooney. Motion carried.

George Crossley, chairman of the Nominating Committee placed the following nominations before the group: President, John Osness, Waterloo; Vice-president, James Rod, Ames, Secretary, Mary Lou Petersen, Davenport; Treasurer, Antoinette Camarata, Waterloo; Executive Council, Beryl Layton, Cedar Rapids, Keith Layton, Oskaloosa, Mrs. Charles Ayres, Ottumwa, and Robert Nickolson, Sioux City.

Moved by Woodward Brown that nominations cease and the secretary be instructed to cast an unanimous ballot. Seconded by George Crossley. Motion carried.

The president requested Charles Ayres to conduct the compilation of birds seen Sunday morning, May 21, 1972, from 6:00 A.M. until 12:00 M. Places visited included Sage Sanctuary, Bruce Childs Access, Bruggeman's Access, Siggelcov Access, Park of the Road of Seven Bridges, Sweet Marsh, Big Marsh, Black Hawk Park, Hope Martin Park, Robertson Bird Sanctuary, the Ida Mae Wade Farm, George Wyth Memorial Park, Indian Hills and Arch McFarlane Park.

BIRDS SEEN

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, American Woodcock, Upland Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Baird's Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Herring Gull, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Traill's Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Bell's Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Pine Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Additional species seen May 20, 1972 only: Golden-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Pine Siskin. Total species -- 123.

REGISTERED ATTENDANCE; --

AMES: Jim Rod, Judy Totemeier

CORALVILLE: James H. Gritton

CEDAR FALLS: Mrs. Lloyd Collins, Eleanor Corwin, Carl and Lucile Howe, Rick McGeough, Keith and Joan McKean, Milray Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Oren Paine, Pauline L. Sauer, Mrs. Charles Schwanke, Maxine Schwanke

CEDAR RAPIDS: Norman and Floy Erickson, Eleanore Fullerton, Beryl and Patricia Layton, Sara Milliken, Lillian Serbousek

DAVENPORT: Peter C. and Mary Lou Petersen

DES MOINES: Mrs. Dwight Brooke, Joseph and Dorothy Brown, Woodward and Mary Brown, W. Lester and Gladys E. Haskell, Dick and Pauly Mooney

DEWITT: Tom and Jean Scott

DUBUQUE: George and Frieda Crossley

FAIRFIELD: Viola Hayward

HAMBURG: Mrs. Edwin A. Getscher

JESUP: Lloyd and Clarise Hewitt

LAMONI: Mr. and Mrs. W. C. DeLong

MARION: Lucile Liljedahl

MARSHALLTOWN: Dorothy A. Brunner, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Glasgow
 NEWTON: Herbert and Edith Dorow
 OSKALOOSA: Mr. and Mrs. Keith Layton
 OTTUMWA: Charles C. and Darleen Ayres, Blossom H. Hallberg, Joan Schooley
 REINBECK: Evelyn Ehlers
 ROCK VALLEY: Hilda E. Miller
 SHELL ROCK: Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Pettijohn
 SIOUX CITY: Mr. and Mrs. Darrel M. Hanna, Bob Nickolson
 WATERLOO: Myrle M. Burk, Antoinette Camarata, Robert and Tim Cox, Mabel Dingsley, Huldah M. Flynn, Ruth Halliday, Helen and Stella Hawkins, Russell M. Hays, Mrs. Beth McGeough, Robert Meisch, Lowell and Eleanore Miller, John and Lois Osness, Pat and Verna Pollock, Evan V., and Laverne Sage, Mrs. Robert Sherburne
 WINTHROP: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pierce
 WHEATLAND: C. Esther Copp
 GADSDEN, ALA.: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rosene, Jr.
 DOVER, ARK.: Margaret Jones
 LA MOILLE, MINN.: Violet Nagle, Pauline Wershofen
 LINCOLN, NEB.: Mr. and Mrs. Harold V. Whitmus
 DALLAS, TEX.: Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Mudge, Jr.

FIELD REPORTS

SPRING MIGRATION, 1972

An unusually warm March promised an early spring, but April reverted to normal and, by mid-May, many trees were only partially leafed out. March was extremely dry, in the central part of the state at least, but April's rainfall reduced the year's deficit by an inch, and the first half of May was also wet. A generalization might be the statement that some of the wintering birds left rather late, while some of our nesters were late in arriving.

Loons, Grebes, Cormorants. Two Arctic Loons were seen on Moffitt Lake near Des Moines on 6 May (DM., WHB). Horned Grebes were scarce at Des Moines, only 1 at Red Rock (HD), and very few (JR), but from 5 to 7 on Cedar Lake in late March and early April (LS). Eared Grebes were few, or none (JR). Pied-billed were fewer (GB). Hendrickson Marsh had 26 Cormorants early in April (JR), with a high of 7 (GB).

Hérons, Egrets. Great Blue were thought down (JR), but a flight of at least 100 near Clear Lake was reported by Mrs. Geo. Dodd (RH). An early Green Heron was seen on 26 March (GH), but they were down (JR). Cattle Egrets were reported 1 mile north of Cedar Rapids on 12 May (LS), 2 east of Ames by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rod (JR) on 5 May, and 2 others by members of the ornithology class at Ames on 6 May (JR). One or two Common Egrets were seen in a number of widely scattered areas. Black-crowned Night Herons appeared down (JR), with no reports of Yellow-crowned.

Swans, Geese, Ducks. Flocks of 8 and 6 Whistling Swans were seen early in April near Jericho and Fredericksburg (fide RH), at least 47 were seen on 18 March (CH), and 5 at Forneys Lake the same day (MK). Reports on the goose flight varied from excellent in March (FK) to rather disappointing (JR), and a mention of more than 20 flocks seen in one hour in the evening on 14 March (DG). White-fronted Geese were seen farther east than usual; 114 counted on 25 March at Red Rock (WC) and an estimated 300 in the Refuge by the Manager (GB), 7 at Swan Lake near L. Odessa on 6 March (FLo), 40 at Muskrat Slough on 24 March (LS), and 6 at Hendrickson Slough on 12 March (JR). Mallards, usually the dominant species around Des Moines were very few, but the 150 moving at Red Rock on 1 March were mostly this species. Gadwalls were numerous (WHB). A male Cinnamon Teal with a female were seen on 29 April (FK), (see longer note). A European Widgeon was reported from Rock Creek Lake, 13 April (JM) (see longer note). Shovelers seemed generally more numerous than in other years. Wood Ducks seem fewer (GB). Buffleheads were many at Red Rock (HD). Lesser Scaups at Red Rock were numbered in the thousands (GB), a peak of 9 M in Pools 13 and 14 on the Mississippi (PP), with many in the Des Moines area. A Surf Scoter was seen and photographed on 4 May (JR).

Vultures, Hawks. Turkey Vultures returned on 19 March, and there are 50 in two roosts (GB), but only a dozen or so have been seen at the Ledges. While hardly a migration note, a Goshawk on 12 February in Allamakee Co. is noteworthy (FLe). Sharp-shinned were numerous near Ames (JR) while 11 were banded (PP). There were also 11 Cooper's banded (JR). Red-tailed were fewer (JR). Red-shouldered were seen (RH, CH and 2 JR). Broad-winged were mentioned; quite a few records (PK), flock of 20 on 18 April (FK), and 3 banded out of 10 seen (PP). A Swainson's was seen on 18 March by Glen Bloomfield (RH). Scattered reports mentioned Bald Eagles. Marsh Hawks were thought fewer (JR). A Peregrine was seen on 11 May a short distance over the Missouri state line (EG). Sparrow Hawks were thought few (GB), a but a good movement was noticed (JR).

Gray Partridge. One was seen on 4 May at a distance of 25 feet near McCallsburg, Story Co., by Darwin Morris (JR). This is considerably east and south of the species' range.

Shorebirds. The migration was generally thought to be extremely poor; in some areas there was a lack of mudflats due to excessive rain, but even the likely places had few birds. There were numerous Pectorals, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers at Lamoni until the lake filled on 6 May (DeL, DG). Soras were abundant at Goose Lake on 6 May (JR), and on 4 May there was a concentration of 52 north of Dunkerton (CH). A Piping Plover was observed on 21 April (DeL). Killdeer were not numerous (GB). Golden Plovers were seen in a number of widely separated areas, largely from the southern part, but were few, a flock of 50 on 16 April being the exception (DeL). A single Black-bellied Plover was seen on 17 May (FK) and an early flock of 20 were seen on 28 April near LeClaire (Mrs. PP). A surprising number of reports of Woodcock were received. These included mention of nests, 2 in the Red Rock area (GB), Ledges (JR), and Castalia (D. Koenig, fide PP). A dozen Snipe were seen on 2 April (EG). The only Upland Plover reported was seen 7 May at Riverton (J. Braley, fide RZ). Willet were seen on 11 May (EG, FK), and on 2 April a flock of 8 was observed (PK). Greater Yellowlegs appeared rather early on 18 March (RH, FK). An early Pectoral was seen on the same day (FK). A Hudsonian Godwit was seen working on bare ground at the edge of a golf course near Des Moines on 16 May (JB). On 5 May 3 Avocets were seen on

Lake LaShane (DeL, DG). An early Wilson's Phalarope was seen on 15 April (DeL).

Gulls, Terns. The winter fish-kill attracted 100 or more Ring-billed Gulls in March (FK). Bonaparte's Gulls were seen 12 April (DeL), and 15 April (LS). Caspian Terns were few; 2 each on 10 and 12 May (GB, PK).

Cuckoos, Owls. Both cuckoos are very late; none at Red Rock (GB), and only a few of either around Des Moines. Great Horned Owls are absent from last year's nesting areas but Barred Owls seem up in numbers (JR). Short-eared Owls in Swan Cemetery, of which there were 6, first arrived on 17 March, but were down to 1 by 13 April (GB). A very late Saw-whet Owl was near Pella on 4 May (NVS).

Swifts, Woodpeckers, Flycatchers. Chimney Swifts are fewer (GB). The Pileated Woodpecker is in the Wheatland area (LS). Sapsuckers on 5 April were described as a wave (CH). More Eastern Phoebe than ever before have been seen (PK). A Say's Phoebe on 16 May is noteworthy. This species has been confined to the northwest for some years (EG). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen 7 May (J. Osness, fide RH), and 9 May (RZ). An Acadian Flycatcher was reported on the latter date (J. Braley fide RZ).

Wrens, Thrushes. House Wrens are fewer (GB). A number of reports mentioned late departure dates for Winter Wrens. Bewick's Wrens, which have appeared regularly in the spring, have not been seen (GB). A Carolina Wren present from 12 to 15 April is the only one reported (FK). Hermit Thrushes, which were in good numbers (JR), appeared early, on 28 March, a record early date (DM), 3 April (RH), 5 April (CH). Bluebirds seemed up (JR). Townsend's Solitaire, heretofore a casual winter visitor, was seen on 16 May (CH).

Gnatcatchers, Kinglets, Waxwings. Only one Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was seen (PP). Golden-crowned Kinglets were thought numerous (PK, MK, RZ), but they were said to have come and gone quickly (JR). Ruby-crowned seemed even more numerous (DeL, DB, RZ). Petersen banded 106, and Rod 47, those after 23 April all being females. The 3 Bohemian Waxwings in Kent's yard in mid-April were the only ones reported.

Vireos, Warblers. White-eyed Vireos were banded 8 May (RZ) and 11 May (PP). Solitary Vireos were unusually numerous (RZ, JR, WHB). A Philadelphia Vireo was well seen on 7 May (FK). There is a lack of uniformity in the descriptions of the warbler waves. These range from no wave seen (GB) to big flights 11 and 18 May (DeL) and 22 species seen but small numbers and spotty (LS). Tennessees seemed to have been late in arriving and left early. An early Orange-crowned was seen on 11 April (EG). Parulas were more than usual (JR) as were Nashvilles in Des Moines. A new early date was the Myrtle on 5 April (CH). Palm were more numerous (RZ, JR). Chats were seen 26 April (RZ) and 9 May (GB).

Finches. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are generally thought plentiful. Redpolls were more numerous and seen later than usual (DG). Red Crossbills were few with 7 seen 25 March (PP). White-winged Crossbills which, if seen at all, are usually gone by the first week in March, stayed on and were seen early in March (PP), 8 April (RH), and 22 April (SS). The spotted variety of the Rufous-sided Towhee also lingered in several areas and was banded on 4 May (JR). A Lark Bunting was seen on 17 May (RZ), and a LeConte's Sparrow two days later. Chipping Sparrows on 19 March were a new early record (RH). Clay-colored were more numerous than usual (RZ, JR, MB). White-crowned and White-throated were in good numbers (JR). Fox Sparrows were more than ever (PK), but few (RZ). Lincoln's were numerous (RZ, JR). A wave of Song Sparrows appeared on 5 April (CH). A flock of Lapland Longspurs was sighted on 16 April (PK).

A Black-billed Magpie was recently seen in Waubesa State Park by Mrs. Getscher and several others. The last published observation was in 1958.

Contributors: Mrs. Gladys Black, Pleasantville; Mrs. Margaret Brooke, Des Moines; Dorothy and Joe Brown, Des Moines; Wm. Criswell, Des Moines; Mrs. W. DeLong, Lamoni; Herb Dorow, Newton; Mrs. Edw. Getscher, Hamburg; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Mrs. Gladys Haskell, Des Moines; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Mrs. Clarise Hewitt, Jesup; Fred Kent, Iowa City; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Morten Konig, Cedar Falls; Fred Leshner, La Crosse, Wisc.; Fred Lorenzen, Davenport; Mrs. James Maish, State Center; Dick Mooney, Des Moines; Peter Petersen, Davenport; Jim Rod, Ames; Lillian Serbousek, Cedar Rapids; Steve Stewart, Des Moines; Mrs. Nola Vander Streek, Pella; Mrs. Ruth Zollars, Shenandoah.

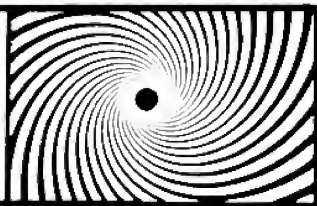
NOTE

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron was first found nesting in Iowa in 1956, and other nests were found in the ensuing few years. Nestings were also recorded in Minnesota near the Iowa line, and in the Rock Island and New Boston heronries on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River. Within the past two years *Audubon Field Notes*, and its successor *American Birds*, have mentioned nestings in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Monroe and Wayne Counties in Michigan, and Racine County in Wisconsin, showing the northward extension of the nesting range of this species.

It would appear there should have been recent nestings in Iowa, but the sighting of several immatures near Des Moines in 1971 has been the only evidence of this. Reporting the discovery of any nests or of immature Yellow-crowned would add to our knowledge of its distribution.

Notes on the summer season should be submitted not later than 20 September. Woodward H. Brown, 432 Tonawanda Drive, Des Moines, 50312.

OBITUARIES



IN MEMORIAM

Paul D. Kline, ecologist for the Preserves Advisory Board of the Iowa State Conservation Commission, took his own life January 3, 1972, in Indianola, Iowa. A native Iowan he had been employed under the Conservation Commission since 1956. He had been ecologist for two years.

He received his B. S. degree in Forestry and M. S. in Wildlife Management from the Iowa State University. Upon graduation in 1953 he was habitat development Biologist for the North Dakota State Game and Fish Department three years, after which he accepted position as the small mammal biologist for the Iowa State Conservation Commission. During this time the family was located in Vinton, Iowa. When the Wildlife Research Unit was completed at Ledges in Boone, Iowa, he was transferred and a year later became the deer biologist. Bow and shotgun licenses having been issued only three years previously promoted this job into an enterprise. He collected material on aging, sexing and accounting for deer statistics. He became a measurer for the Boone and Crockett Club, measuring many antlers of proud and successful hunters throughout the state.

Accepting position of Assistant Superintendent of Game prompted moving nearer the state office building in Des Moines. Indianola proved to be an ideal place for the family to live. This position being too confining, Paul applied for Turkey Biologist. He was responsible for securing healthy specimens to be turned loose in the Yellow River Forest area and Stephens State Park. At this time it became apparent the state needed a full time ecologist. This was a new adventure and being responsible to the State Advisory Board, he was able to use nearly all his talents as archeologist, ornithologist and photographer to promote interest in preserving Iowa's Natural Resources, and in evaluating each preserve area, of which there are 18 now. Several more native areas are being considered for preservation through his dedicated efforts.

An enthusiastic teacher in a country school helped Paul gain first hand knowledge of birds and location of nests. In 25 years he collected many eggs and kept detailed records of birds seen annually. His collection of bird nests was donated to the Museum of History and Science in Waterloo, along with his entire insect collection. The museum was a new enterprise and most grateful for these collections.

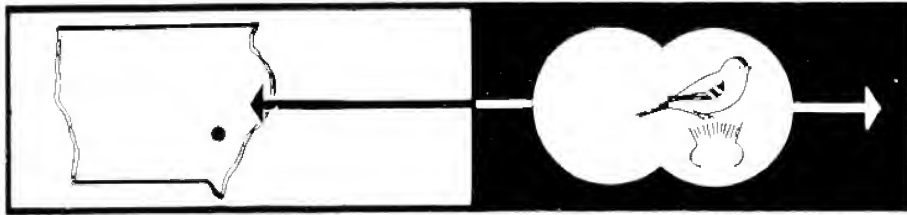
His indian artifact collection is one of the finest of Iowa's indian culture. Thirty years collecting brought him in contact with people who knew the type of area and tribe and this proved to be invaluable information which adds to the interested spectator. He was president of the Iowa Archeology Society in 1959 and contributed many hours attaining his goal of 100 new members. His knowledge of wildlife and plants and animals was well received by any who came in contact with him, and he would talk as long as he felt you were interested.

During his summers while in college he was employed by the Forest Service as a forest lookout in Washington, Oregon, and Texas. His thesis was under the supervision of Dr. George Hendrickson at Iowa State; "Autumnal Decimation of Mearns Cottontail, Decatur, County, Iowa 1952." Many publications appear in the Iowa Academy of Science Proceedings, American Society of Mamology Publications, *Iowa Bird Life*, and the *Iowa Conservationist*. He served on former Governor Harold Hughes Rabies Control program in 1963. Under Governor Robert Ray he was appointed to serve on studies of the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

Kline was born in Mills County having been delivered by his grandfather, an Osteopathic Physician. He grew up on a farm two miles north of Tabor; his father also a graduate of Iowa State. Paul was a member of Adelante Fraternity and Gamma Sigma Delta Honorary Society. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, and R. N.; Paul David, a sophomore at Iowa State University; Kenneth, a senior; and Martin, a junior, and Angela in junior high.

He enjoyed his work enthusiastically, speaking to school groups, Izaak Walton Leagues, and many civic organizations, involving everyone with whom he came in contact to become concerned in preservation. He was a charter member of the Indianola Evening Lions Club, held memberships in the Iowa Archeology Society, Missouri Archeology Society, Iowa Ornithologists Union, The Nature Conservancy, and the National Wildlife Society, sharing these interests in his work with the Boy Scouts. He contributed much of the information and records of shore birds in the Red Rock and Rathbun Refuges. He supplies current information on the properties in the Iowa State Preserves System for a new publication, *Discovering Historic Iowa*. He has a large library of slides containing Iowa's wildflowers and many birds which are native to Iowa.

A living memorial fund has been established in his name which will be used to further studies in preservation of Iowa's natural resources. Mrs. Marjorie Kline.



Birding Areas of Iowa

Johnson County - Iowa City Area

F. W. KENT
302 Richards Street
IOWA CITY, IOWA

Iowa City 1970 population: 46,444

21 year average species Christmas census record: 41.1

Introduction

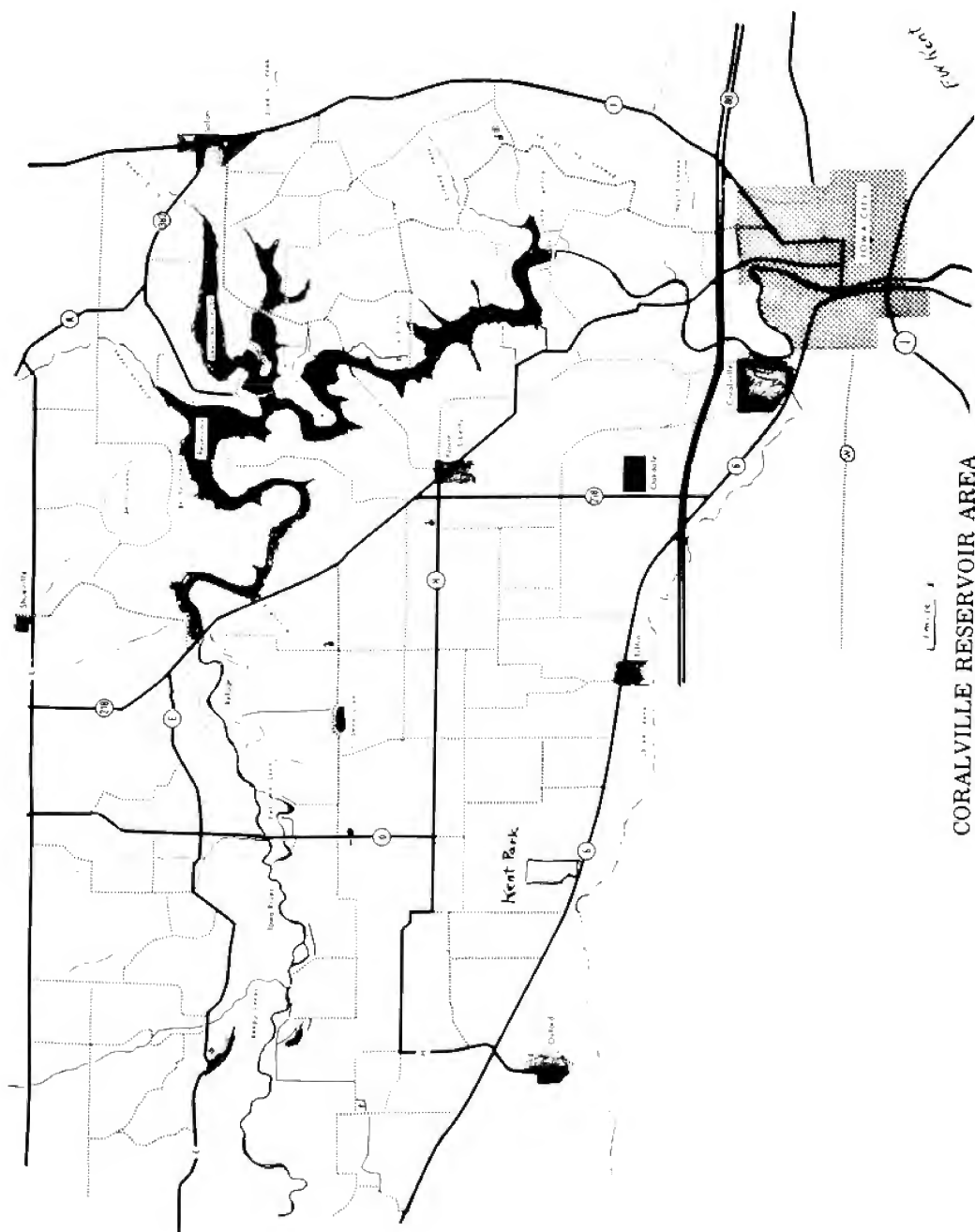
The most conspicuous physiographic feature of Johnson County is the Iowa River which flows through the Amana and enters the west edge of the county meandering for ten miles in a wide flood plain of open fields and bottom-land timber. At Highway 218 north of Iowa City it winds south between steep wooded hills until it again enters the flat country south of the city on its way to join the Cedar River at Columbus Junction. The rest of county mostly open farm land, small streams, and some rolling hills in northeast corner. Naturally, this has been the most interesting birding area but has changed markedly in past ten years due to the Coralville Reservoir, and its impact on the habitat all the way to the Amana. At full storage the Reservoir is some 35 miles long and 24,800 acres and 30 feet higher than summer level, which only makes a lake from the dam to Highway 218.

Coralville Reservoir

A permanent lake for 15 miles through hills of oak, hickory habitat with many access roads. A good area for spring warblers but rather poor the rest of year, especially in summer when level is raised 10 feet for hordes of boaters, skiers, and campers. Some ducks in migrations, mostly divers. At Sugar Bottoms a wide sandy peninsula has attracted Snow Buntings and Horned Larks in early winter. The Sandy Beach area of Reservoir, north of Lake Macbride, is reached by a road out of Solon, with a nice small natural marsh pond enroute where good scattering of ducks are often found. Hossier and Sand creeks enter the Reservoir east of Sandy Beach at the widest place in Reservoir, and always been fine for birds in spring and fall, and at different water levels. Often pelicans in spring, gulls, terns, herons, and at low water levels some fine varieties of shore birds.

Macbride Campus

This 600 acre tract north of Mehafey Bridge between the Reservoir and Lake Macbride is on lease to the University of Iowa for various educational and recreational uses. Fine woodland of hills and open fields towards the river, excellent for spring warblers and summer residents, such as Tanagers, Ovenbirds, Wood Thrush, vireos, Redstarts, and others. Has nature trails for access.





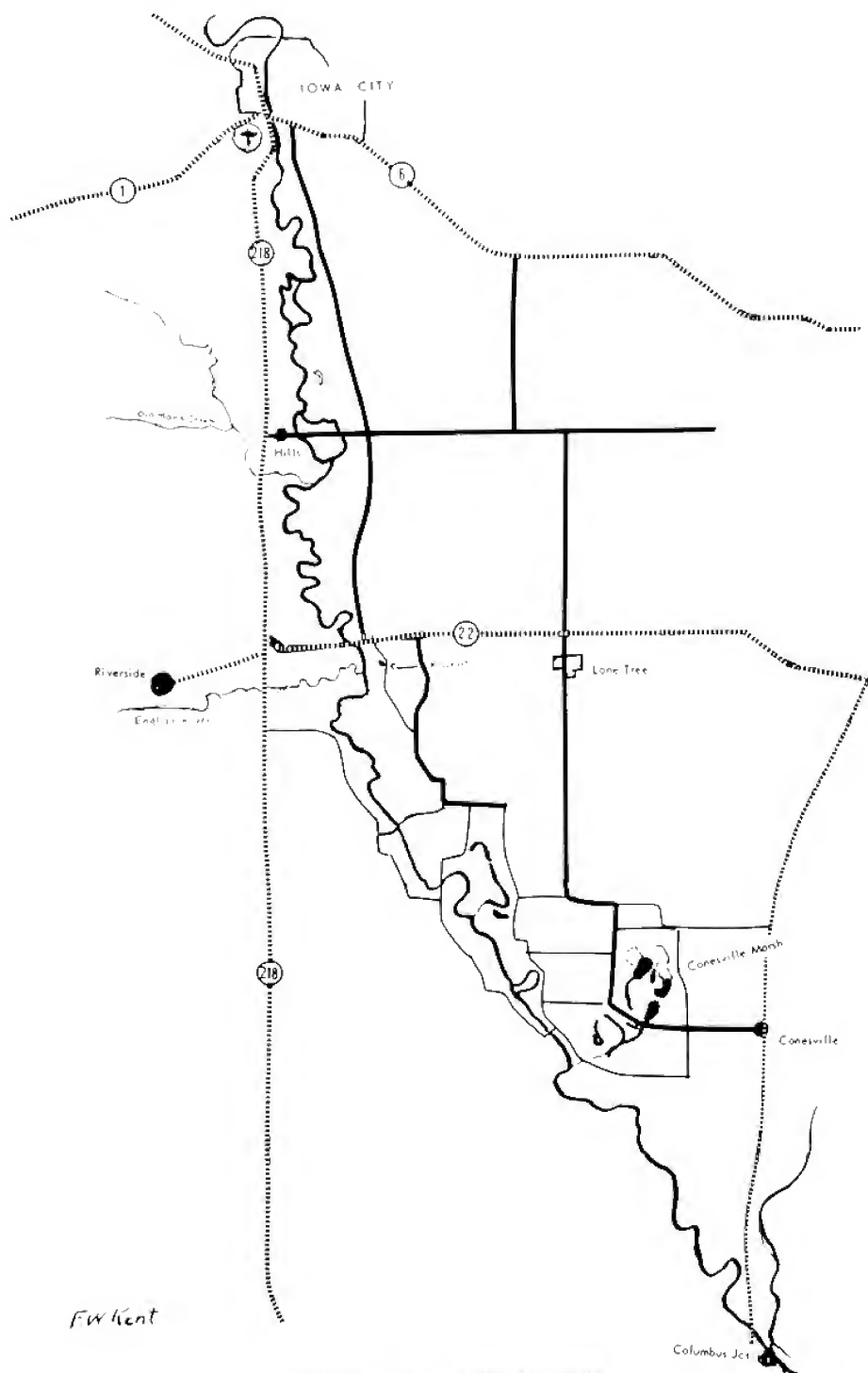
Coralville Reservoir at high storage level
(looking east from near Amanas)



Macbride Campus & Lake Macbride in background.
(looking northeast)



Coralville Dam & Reservoir (looking north)
Photos by the author



ROUTES TO CONE MARSH

Lake Macbride

Now much larger than original as it was raised some 27 feet to prevent overflow from Reservoir, so shores bare and no emergent vegetation, and not too attractive for birds. Some diving ducks and late flocks when ponds are frozen (or to escape hunting areas to the west?). Gulls, terns, a Loon, or an Osprey often spotted, but areas where Saw-whets, or Long-eared Owls taken over by camp grounds.

Iowa River Valley west to Amanas

A wide, flat flood plain now controlled by the Corps of Engineers for reserve storage of flood waters - so highly variable habitat. With very high water it makes a lake 2 miles wide and 15 miles to the Amanas. In 1970 it was filled to capacity and lowered slowly to prevent downstream flooding. This took most of summer and early fall and produced many ponds and mud flats which attracted more shore birds than we ever had in the area. After such a flood all rodents and normal weed and seed plants were gone, so in the winter season no owls, hawks or small birds were present where normally they would be quite common. In dry seasons there would be some recovery. A "fractured habitat" and quite variable. Along north side of this area the road from Coufalls to East Amana is always interesting and scenic.

(The Corps of Engineers distributes a very fine map of all this part of county. Available at headquarters at east side of dam, or from the Rock Island office)

The Cone Marsh and Iowa River South

Although listed in another guide this is the only good marsh in this area, some 25 miles south of Iowa City in NW corner of Louisa County. A remnant of old post-glacial Lake Calvin, largely controlled in past by duck hunting clubs but now the west part belongs to the Iowa Conservation Commission and is open to the public with several access roads that give good views and places to hike into the marsh. From early March into April a fine variety of ducks and geese settle here, with some springs 20,000 or more of the early ducks. Later, rails, herons and marsh birds, and with lower water levels many fine spots for shore birds. A road around the whole area provides good spotting, and often some unusual items as swans, pelicans, eagles, night herons and Golden and Black-bellied Plovers. To the west of Cone Marsh along the Iowa River a series of old oxbow sloughs and bottom-land woods provide some of the best spring birding. Warblers, including Prothonotary, Chat and Kentucky, Pileated Woodpeckers and heron rookery. Cutting and bulldozing have eliminated some of good spots. Several bridges across the river lead to some fine wooded spots along the river bluff, for a nice return trip to Iowa City.

GENERAL NOTES

Cinnamon Teal near Iowa City - On April 19, 1972, a nice day between all the rain this spring, Tom and I went out around the Swan Lake area. We always check the roadside ponds just south of the Greencastle corner where we have had some good records of shore birds and ducks. Found a few coots and a dozen Blue-winged teal on the east pond. Among them we spotted a very dark one, easily identified as a Cinnamon Teal with glasses and scope, with a female. Occasionally the male would charge a blue-wing that came too close. Spent some time taking color photos (although a bit far off) but as they were feeding most of the time it was difficult to get a picture with head up and side view. Finally got a couple good shots. Apparently the only other record for eastern Iowa was by E. Copp in April 1967 (Brown. Annotated List of Birds of Iowa) - F. W. KENT, 302 Richards, Iowa City

One Day Eagle Count February 19 or 20, 1972 - Most of the Mississippi River from its source to below St. Louis, as well as most of the Illinois River, was covered. Kentucky again was covered by the Kentucky Ornithological Society. A few additional areas came in St. Louis led again in the number of people taking part with about 200. A total slightly under 500 people were involved. The area from Lock & Dam 12 at Bellevue, Iowa, to Warsaw was covered by both plane and cars. A careful comparison was made. Dr. De Decker flew the plane with Peter Petersen, and Ernie Sadler doing the counting. Dr. L. H. Princen handled the data for the Illinois River. Many groups of people participated — Fish & Wildlife people, game management, lockmasters, and bird watchers all took part.

LOCATION	ADULTS	IMMATURES	NOT AGED	TOTAL
Lock & Dam 3 thru Lock & Dam 11	237	47	2	286
Lock & Dam 12 to Lock & Dam 18	242	89	0	331
Lock & Dam 20 to Pool 22	107	18	0	125
Pool 22 to below St. Louis	87	48	16	151
Illinois River	113	126	15	254
RIVER TOTALS	786	328	33	1147
	70.5 %	29.5 %		
Illinois Wildlife Refuges	13	21	0	34
Kentucky	18	28	13	59
TOTALS	817	377	46	1240
	69 %	31 %		
Other Reports:				
Missouri	33	26	1	60
Nebraska	64	17	14	95
TOTALS	97	43	15	155
	70 %	30 %		

A total of 12 Golden Eagles were found.

Comments: This 50 percent increase in total numbers must indicate that Bald Eagles coming to the rivers must be coming from other directions rather than from the north only. The Mississippi River south to at least Lock & Dam 20 had less open water than in the past twelve years counts. River was mostly open southward. The 12 Golden Eagles is more than we have ever found. Daily reports that are coming into me from the all winter study show additional Golden Eagles. These must come from the west. The possibility that eagles come from Fish & Wildlife Refuges is great. This could also account for the increase in immatures as more immatures are normal in duck and geese refuges. Illinois River had more complete coverage this year. However most of the increase on the Illinois was from Grafton to Hardin. This area is close to the Mississippi, and 99 immatures were found here. They were feeding on ducks and geese that were dead or dying from lead poisoning. The Squaw Creek Refuge had 98 adults and 110 immatures on Dec. 19 and were down to 21 of each age group by count dates. The Missouri River was covered by two planes. One flew from Kansas City down river to Lexington. The other flew from Kansas City to Lawrence on the Kansas River and to St. Joseph on the Missouri. Only two Bald Eagles were found. (Richard G. Dawson) On the Missouri from Glasgow to Herman, Mo. a total of 4 eagles were found. (Jim Rathut) It seems reasonable to guess the Mississippi eagles came from these or other areas. It would be impossible for this kind of increase from population growth or from the close by regions of Canada. The closeness of the immature ratio in the different areas reported is of extreme interest. Nebraska had better coverage. The author saw an adult Bald Eagle with a dark brown or reddish

marking on tail terminal. This was seen near Kearney, Neb., March 19. - ELTON FAWKS, 510 Island Ave., East Moline, Illinois

A Case of Robbery -- During the morning field trip of the I. O. U. on May 21, 1972, several members witnessed an example of avian skulduggery. The locale was Sweet Marsh near Waterloo, Iowa. As we stood on the bank of the shallow lake a female Baltimore Oriole flew into a river birch on a small island some twenty five feet away. She had made a good start on her nest and made frequent trips for plant fibres which she wove into the structure which she had tied firmly to several drooping branchlets. Soon a Warbling Vireo was discovered working on her semi-pensile nest on the opposite side of the same tree. In both nests the material looked the same -- white and fluffy. We were watching through binoculars and Judge Ayres' scope when the vireo flew over to the oriole's nest and tugged vigorously until she dislodged some fibre. Back she went to her nest where she incorporated the stolen material. She made at least four raids on the oriole nest while we observed. The oriole was never present when the thievery took place though she came back frequently with more material. We wondered if she noticed anything wrong and half hoped she would confront the small robber in the act. The male oriole was whistling in the vicinity and the male vireo was warbling constantly as the little drama was enacted. - MARGARET BROOKE, 126 51st St., Des Moines

How to Thwart the Large Birds -- Dr. and Mrs. Harold Peasley of Des Moines invented a feeding idea which I have copied with some success. They utilized wire baskets out of an old freezer. A plastic silver divider was placed on a flat platform feeder. Then the basket was upturned over it. The Peasleys put large sheets of plate glass (sanded on the corners and edges) on top of the basket and weighted it with a brick. The smaller birds soon learn to go through the holes and the grackles and jays are largely thwarted. I used a bicycle carrying basket in lieu of the freezer baskets. I have seen chickadees, titmice, Cardinals, Purple Finches, American Goldfinches, Pine Siskins, and House Sparrows feeding inside the basket. One grackle squeezed himself through once. The Red-bellied Woodpecker manages to reach through for his favorite sunflower seeds. Although the jays and grackles reach some from the outside it prevents them from gobbling up several quarts in a day or two as they do with my hopper type feeder. This also deters the squirrels somewhat when they leap onto this feeder from a nearby fir tree. MARGARET BROOKE, 126 51st St., Des Moines

European Widgeon in Central Iowa. -- On April 13, 1972, Miss Irene Wein and the author were observing ducks on Rock Creek Lake from the northwest shore. While watching a flock of American Widgeon swimming in front of us, Irene noted one which she thought was a Redhead. I looked at it and told her it was just a widgeon, but as I looked again I realized it had the widgeon markings but a red head. We looked in our Peterson's guide and identified it as a male European Widgeon. We were able to observe it for along time and carefully check all the identifying marks. We were especially glad to read in the guide that it suggests upon first acquaintance a Redhead. We were in the area for three hours and kept track of it for the entire time. It was a real thrill to add a new bird to my life list. We went back the following Sunday hoping to show my husband but were unable to locate the bird. - MRS. JAMES MAISH, State Center.

Avocets in Western Iowa -- My family and I had gone for a drive in the country looking for Yellow-headed Blackbirds or any migrating species on May 2, 1972. We had been to most of the places we wished to visit but had one place left before going back to town. The town sewage ponds had been frequently used by migrating species before and perhaps there would be some birds there on this evening. We

have a lake that sits less than one mile north of the water treatment ponds but I believe the birds select the treatment ponds because it is cleaner water.

As we were driving down to the water a flock of birds flew up that were different than any I had ever seen before. After closer inspection and a little book work we identified them as American Avocets, a flock of eight. I could have looked for a long time and not have had the luck to see these beautiful birds as I did when we were not really looking for any particular species. Perhaps this is one reason birding can be so enjoyable. - PAUL SMITH, Paullina

Another King Eider Record for Iowa -- Three Algona brothers, John Joe and Rick Goecke shot a juvenile King Eider on Inham Lake near Wallingford the week of November 8, 1971. The duck was frozen and sent to the State Conservation Commission in Des Moines for mounting and positive identification. This makes the fourth record for the King Eider for Iowa. Most of the above information was taken from an article appearing in the **Des Moines Register** on November 12, 1971, by Ries Tuttle and is used with his permission. The identification information was provided by Kenneth Formanek of the Iowa Conservation Commission by phone on December 2, 1971. Anyone knowing of the shooting of rare ducks is urged to try to obtain the bird for the Iowa Conservation Commission or the Davenport Museum so it can be preserved. The data relevant to the collection of the bird should be sent in to Woodward Brown for inclusion in the printed record of Iowa birds. --PETER C. PETERSEN, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport.

Avocets at Conesville Marshes -- On a visit to the Conesville Marshes September 21, 1971, I saw five Avocets. They were busily feeding in characteristic manner, moving their heads from side to side as the bills passed through the mud in searching for insects and other aquatic life. At times they seemed to run forward a short distance to look for a new source of food. This procedure continued during the half-hour spent in observing the birds. These Avocets were in fall plumage. The next day two other Iowa Ornithologists' Union members saw two Avocets in the same area. -- LILLIAN SERBOUSEK, 1226 2nd St. S.W., Cedar Rapids.

Birding on a Below Zero Morning -- 15 below zero! Fluffy white snow blanketed the country-side. Looking out our kitchen window I noticed some sparrows huddled in the brush. These sparrows had something to eat. We were seeing to that. I wondered how our feathered friends were doing, for instance, in Rock-Creek State Park?

Driving slowly I kept watching for various species along the road-sides. It seemed like very few were moving about. But, as I came to the gravel road by the north entrance of the park, I came upon small flocks of Black-capped Chickadees, Slate-colored Juncos and some meadowlarks busily picking away in the sand and gravel, that had just been exposed by a snow plow. In conversation with park officers Roger Ruchti and Larry Adams I was told that in the late afternoon the graveled road-side becomes a feeding place for the birds of the park during the heavy snows.

Inside the park everything seemed to be quiet but then, coming over a hill, two Red-tailed Hawks flew up. With the reflection of the white snow their underside markings showed up beautiful. As they hovered overhead I would have liked to get a photo with my telephoto lens but was afraid that if I stopped by car at the bottom of the hill that I might not get out without help. By the time I was to the top of the hill the hawks were out of sight. There was a flash of scarlet as a Cardinal flew from one bush to another. Six pheasants, all hens, flew across the road in front of me. They landed in the deep snow and weeds and were out of sight. But, returning home on old highway six, two pheasant hens did not fly up as cars passed by,

they were more concerned about finding food. It takes will-power to go birding on a below zero morning. Not only is it stimulating, but also helpful to make us more understanding how these beautiful creatures must live and what they must do to survive. -- HERB DOROW, 12005 8th Ave., Newton.

A Note about Red-tailed Hawks -- An early spring hawk migration watch at the Saylorville dam area north of Des Moines yielded an intriguing aspect of Red-tailed Hawk flight behavior. A group of three birds, probably migrants, floated north on southerly winds of some 20 m.p.h. velocity. These birds circled tightly, all apparently sharing the same thermal. Binocular observations of this group showed images of small objects in the sky with the hawks. These objects at first appeared to be small birds, and we wondered momentarily if we might be seeing very early Chimney Swifts. Closer scrutiny, however, made it clear that many of these specks were oak leaves caught up in the same rising air current; perhaps they were debris from a big bonfire nearby.

While we watched, two of the hawks would lower their legs during flight and would reach out, grab, and hold a leaf; then release it and return to normal flight posture. This was accompanied by what looked like other courtship or recreational behavior: stooping, pursuing one another, then ringing up to regain altitude. These maneuvers along with the leaf catching continued for some five minutes while the hawks drifted out of sight to the north. - JOSEPH AND DOROTHY BROWN, 3300 Lincoln Rd., Des Moines

Brown Pelican in Muscatine County -- The author learned rather belatedly of the third record of the Brown Pelican in Iowa last winter. While visiting Elmer Deters, a Davenport engineer and avid eagle observer and photographer who lives near Montpelier, I noted one photograph of a Brown Pelican in his collection. I remarked that he had apparently been in the south to photograph birds and he replied to the contrary, he had photographed the pelican from the house. Several days later he sent me a print of the photograph below taken May 10, 1969, one mile west of Montpelier, Iowa, on the Mississippi. This constitutes the third Iowa record and would not have been possible had not Ralph Heuer, longtime I. O. U. member from Davenport, taken Mary Lou and I to see the many optical inventions Mr. Deters has created to help him see and photograph our national bird. - PETER C. PETERSEN, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport.



Brown Pelican on Mississippi River
Photo by Elmer Deters

Unusual Shorebird Behavior at Iowa City - We all have observed many of nature's adaptations to the encroachment of human civilization. Recently I observed a novel (at least to me) example.

On October 8, 1971, at 9:30 a.m. while sitting in a third floor classroom of East Hall on the University of Iowa Central Campus, I observed birds on the flat graveled roof of a two-story building approximately a half-block away. The roof was covered with water, estimated to be approximately an inch or less in depth. After a period of observation, I was secure in identifying these birds as four Spotted Sandpipers. They were exhibiting typical feeding behavior and continued for the duration of the entire lecture period (about 45 minutes).

It is my assumption that these birds were in migration and had located this rather exotic feeding site. From their continued activity and length of time at the same location, I concluded that they were meeting with success in their feeding endeavor. - JAMES L. FULLER, D.D.S., College of Dentistry, University of Iowa, Iowa City.

BOOK REVIEWS



A Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Central America -- E. Irby Davis -- University of Texas Press, Austin -- 282 p., 48 color plates -- 1972 -- \$10.00, \$6.50 fabricoid.

A Field Guide to the Birds of Mexico -- Ernest P. Edwards -- printed by the author at Sweet Briar, Virginia -- 300 p., 24 color plates, three maps -- 1972 -- \$8.50 fabricoid.

Since these guides cover in part the same area and appeared almost simultaneously, it seems logical to review them together. One planning to go to Mexico may be limited by economics and space into choosing between the two, so perhaps we can assist in this dilemma. The books will be referred to by the author's name in this review.

Obviously, Davis is, on the surface, a better buy. It covers more area, illustrates more birds and is cheaper. Davis does have two major faults. One lies in the choice of common names. The generally accepted source of nomenclature, pending the expansion of the American Ornithologists Union Checklist to include Central America, is *The Species of Middle American Birds* by Eisenmann. These names are much more descriptive than those substituted by Davis. Disregarding the problem of species vs. subspecies, Davis has changed just over 500 of the 1500+ names used. He even changed accepted North American names, for example Pauraque becomes White-collared Cuckoo and Common Nighthawk becomes Booming Nighthawk. Basing his taxonomy chiefly on calls, Davis elevates 167 subspecies to species, using Eisenmann as my authority. If one wants to lengthen his life list this is a good way. In the case of the *Empidonax* flycatchers, Davis lumps the recognized North American species into three superspecies, chiefly to aid in field work. The other fault with Davis lies in failing to give some idea of

abundance and habitat. This would have added to the length of the book, but would have been very desirable even if the cost were increased.

Edwards, with the advantage of covering less territory, goes into more text detail. He treats the habitat and abundance very well, giving many mannerisms often helpful in the field. He also gives a much more specific range and more detailed text description, both in English and Spanish. His innovation of using bold face for birds not occurring in North America (north of Mexico) is good and should be a real aid for field reference. It is advisable to use Edwards in company with his bird finding guide (see IBL Vol. 39 p. 22-23). Some of the common names in Edwards represent deviations from Eisenmann, but these are minor compared to Davis.

Since each book has some advantages, the best advice is to buy both. If one is going to Mexico only, Edwards is the best choice. If one may go eventually to other countries, Davis best. Be sure to check over the books carefully for nomenclature prior to your trip and bring them into line with your preference. It should also be remembered that neither book attempts to illustrate North American (north of Mexico) birds, so a guide such as Robbins, et al is also needed. Good birding south of the border! ed.

High Arctic -- An Expedition to the Unspoiled North -- George Miksch Sutton -- Paul S. Eriksson, Inc., New York, New York -- 134 p., eleven color plates, many photographs -- 1971 -- \$12.95 (Plates only available suitable for framing at \$14.95).

This book is primarily the result of a 1969 expedition to Bathurst Island to study the behavior, habits and distribution of Arctic birds. Dr. Sutton had made fourteen previous trips to the arctic and this background is imparted to the reader both in the text and the beautifully executed illustrations. The paintings capture the mood of the region beautifully and convey much to the reader.

The text is not extensive and does not detail the scientific work. It compliments the illustrations and, combined with the layout, they produce a memorable work. It would be enjoyed by anyone who loves wild, unspoiled places and the creatures that dwell there. ed.

Field Work of a Museum Naturalist -- Alaska 1919-1922 -- Alfred M. Bailey -- Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colorado -- 192 p., many photographs -- 1971 -- \$2.50 (paperbound).

This book is in some ways similar to the one covered in the previous review. The chronicle is much more detailed and it does not depend on color illustrations and a layout to carry its message. The photographs are excellent, especially when one considers the camera equipment of fifty years ago. The contrast in ways to travel is brought home by reading the two books (Sutton and Bailey). The book covers two trips, one to Southeastern and one to Northeastern Alaska. Dr. Bailey is an Iowan who has left his native state to become one of the leading museum men in America. ed.

Ducks of the Mississippi Flyway-- John McKane with illustrations by Ken Haag and Ernest Strubbe -- North Star Press, St. Cloud, Minn. -- 56 p., 27 color illustrations many range maps and sketches -- 1969 -- \$4.95 (paperbound \$2.98).

A well done guide to the ducks of the midwest. The illustrations are well executed but are limited almost exclusively to spring plumages, following the usual pattern. The text covers other names, field notes and marks, and range. It seems correct except for the misspelling of Shoveler. Hunters should have this type of book so they observe point limits properly. ed.

Six Came Flying -- Marquis Mac Swiney -- Alfred A. Knopf, New York, New York -- 270 p., 22 photographs and 19 line drawings -- 1972 -- \$6.95.

A very human account of the relationship between a family of Mute Swans and the author's family. The author shows fair restraint from the tendency to anthropomorphis. The swans always seem to bring the admiration of people and this volume gives a good insight into this phenomenon. ed.

Bird Wall Through the Bible -- Virginia C. Holmgren -- The Seaburg Press, New York, New York -- 216 p. -- 1972 -- \$6.95

For anyone with common interest in bird watching and religions this book will provide a link, as one would expect. The bulk of the text is devoted to a glossary in alphabetical order of the birds covered by biblical passages. A certain amount of supposition is involved here, but it seems to be based on sound reasoning. The inclusion of bats is on shakey ground, but some doubt of just what is being described leaves the door open for a bird to be what is referred to in the passages indicated. Some general categories are alsoluded such as conservation, migration, nests, etc. Appendicies cover Hebrew, Greek and Latin designations of birds, specific passages in the Bible and a check-list of birds found today in Bible lands. ed.

The Folklore of Birds -- Edward A. Armstrong -- Dover Publications, New York, New York -- 284 p., 159 illustrations -- 1970 -- \$3.50, paperbound.

A revised edition of Armstrong's 1958 work of the same title covering folklore from the deciphering of cave paintings to bird-related rituals observed today in various parts of the world. Some of the areas covered in detail are the bird-maidens, the thunderbird, the wren hunt and the harbingers of spring. Many photographs of current bird rituals and representations by ancient artists are included. The bibliography is extensive and includes a supplement updating that of the original edition. The book conveys a good understanding of the prominence birds attained in an almost religious way in many cultures. ed.

The Origin of Birds -- Gerhard Heilmann -- Dover Publications, New York, New York -- 210 p., 142 figures -- 1972 -- \$3.50 paperbound.

This detailed paleontological work is considered perhaps the most complete disertation on the relationship of birds and reptiles yet written. First published in 1927, this book approaches this relationship from several directions. The author first undertook a very detailed study of the early forms including a reconstruction of their mode of life. Hen then traced the evolutionary process through embryonic stages and compared anatomical and biological data to traces of relationships found in modern birds. The result is a postulation of the chain of development which culminated with what we know today as birds.

This book is not written for the beginner, but does make good use of illustrations to convey data. All college libraries not possessing the original should have this volume. ed.

A Narrative of Travels on the Amazon and Rio Negro -- Alfred Russel Wallace -- -Dover Publications, New York, New York -- 364 p., 17 illustrations and two maps -- 1972 -- \$3.50 paperbound.

A reprint of the second edition (1889) of one of the classical early works on the geography and zoology of part of the Amazon basin. Wallace was a contemporary of Darwin and developed similar ideas somewhat independently. The trip covered the period from 1848-1852 and the accounts cover the full range of natural history

material. It provides a good picture of this area in as "primitive" a state as our civilization has known it. ed.

Bird Song and Bird Behavior -- Donald J. Borror -- Dover Publications, New York, New York -- one 12", 33 and one-third monaural record and a 32 p. booklet with 57 spectographs and 23 illustrations -- 1972 -- \$3.00.

A record-booklet combination which leads the listener-reader past the point of mere identification by means of songs and calls. Specifically, this publication deals with how bird recordings are made; a classification of bird sounds; nonvocal sounds; how bird songs are analyzed; the singing habits of birds; types of songs; song development in the individual bird; intra-specific variation in advertising songs; unusual songs; dual singing and calls. The treatment is very basic and the text should be read before beginning to work with the record. It is a rather good innovation and with the exception of a few slightly off speed introductory remarks is well done. ed.

The First Water Colors of North American Birds -- ed. by Thomas P. Harrison -- University of Texas Press, Austin -- 60 p., 10 color plates -- 1964 -- \$5.00

An interesting little book for the student of American bird art. It deals with two artists, John White and Edward Toppell. White was a painter and surveyor who was in Virginia in 1585 and 86. He painted some of the birds during his stay in America and Sir Hans Sloan discovered and publicized his album in 1706. In the early 1600's Edward Toppell wrote a manuscript on birds which includes American birds apparently copied from White's work without crediting white. This seems to have been the first water color painting done of bird life in America. ed.

How to Talk to Birds and Other Uncommon Ways of Enjoying Nature the Year Round -- Richard C. Davis -- Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York City -- 242 p., 16 pages of photographs -- 1972 -- \$6.95.

A rather appealing book of tidbits of nature lore, this volume probably contains something new for even the most seasoned naturalist. A few of the bird-related pieces of information are how to attract birds to your yard, provision a feeder, make sense of field guides, and offer children a close-up view of the home life of birds. All of the information is passed along with various anecdotes from the author's lifetime of experience, making an enjoyable way of gaining knowledge. This is a book which provides light reading or a general nature study nature study reference. Perhaps a good book to give someone who has just begun to achieve an awareness of nature. ed.

Request for Information

Shorebirds Recapture Operations: -- Several species of shorebirds will be marked with yellow feather dye on the underparts, and yellow streamers attached to the leg, in the 1972 fall migration. Sanderlings will be marked only with leg streamers. Birds will be caught on the Magdalena Islands (Gulf of St. Lawrence).

Reports of sight records should include the locality, date, species, name and address of observer (s). Please weigh the bird and read the band number if taken alive.

Information should be sent to: Raymond McNeil, Centre de Recherches Ecologiques de Montreal, 4101 est. rue Sherbrooke, Montreal 406, Que., Canada

Institute for the Study of Bird Populations

Purposes:

1. To engage in an support research on the mechanisms of regulation of bird populations, both distribution and abundance.
2. To provide a vehicle for the publication of the results of theoretically based research on bird populations.
3. To support the popularization of ornithological science, including publication of texts, newsletters, and other educational material relating scientific discoveries in ornithology to the interests of bird watchers.

Sources of funds:

1. Amateur and professional ornithologists will become members of the Institute and pay dues.
2. Memberships and donations will be solicited by mail and at Bird Club, Garden Club, Ornithological Society, and other naturalist society meetings.
3. Donations will be solicited from members and others for specific research projects, for symposia and for research land acquisition.
4. Publications of the Institute will be sold. These will include scientific reports as well as popular accounts.
5. The Institute will apply for grants from Foundations and the government.

Expenditure of funds:

1. Funds will be used to support (provide fellowships for) graduate students and post-doctoral students in bird populations research. These fellowships would provide a stipend to meet living expenses and a continuing research budget. Students would be selected on the basis of a research proposal submitted to the Institute and judged by the Institute staff on the basis of theoretical and ornithological competence.
2. Grants will be made to members for travel expenses, living expenses and equipment for specific research projects. Grantees will be selected based on the effectiveness of previous completed work. Applications for research funds will be considered, and some grantees, known for their competence, will be solicited. The criteria used for judgment will always include the power of predictions that can be made and tested.
3. The Institute will, if possible, maintain a research staff, to organize and analyze amateur (membership) data (bird banding, nest records, bird watching, censuses), and to organize research activities of members.
4. The Institute will continually expend funds to recruit members.
5. The Institute will offer grants to authors, artists and teachers wishing to popularize nature appreciation and ornithological knowledge. Selection will be made on the basis of success and popularity of previously completed material.

If interested, contact Steve Fretwell, Division of Biology, Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.